

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:144

ANSWERED ON:03.08.2005

SIMPLIFYING PASSPORT ISSUANCE PROCEDURE

Barman Shri Hiten;Vallabbhaneni Shri Balashowry

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has issued instructions to issue new passports to the applicants within three weeks and simplify the police verification procedures;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the current status of the matter;
- (c) the details of steps taken/proposed to be taken to implement the same;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to open Regional Passport Offices in more States;
- (e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, particularly in West Bengal and Uttaranchal;
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (g) the details of pending passport applications as on date, RPO-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

(a) to (g) - A Statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement with reference to parts (a) to (g) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 144 to be answered on 03.08.2005 regarding 'simplifying Passport Issuance Procedure'.

(a) The Government has issued instructions for issue of passports within 30 days, subject to receipt of clear police verification report;

(b)&(c) The Government has taken several steps towards its implementation:

(i) The specified time period for issue of fresh passports under Tatkaal Scheme has been revised from 1-10 days and 11-35 days to 1-10 days and 11-20 days respectively.

(ii) In case of reissue of passports the specified time period for Tatkaal has been revised from 1-10 days to 1-5 days.

(iii) The Ministry of Home Affairs has been requested to instruct State Governments to expedite the police verification process and send the reports to the Passport Offices within a period of two weeks.

(iv) Introduction of process re-engineering in Passport Offices to reduce the time taken for issuance of passports.

(d),(e)&(f) The Government has taken a decision to open Passport Offices at Dehradun and Raipur and to upgrade the existing Passport Application Collection Centre to a full-fledged Passport Office at Shimla. Due to shortage of staff in the Central Passport Organization (CPO), this decision has not been implemented. At present, there is no decision to open a new Passport Office in West Bengal.

(g) The details of pending passport applications as on 15.7.2005 are given at Annexure 'A'.

ANNEXURE - 'A'

Statement showing the pendency in RPO/POs as on 15.07.2005

S.No. Name of RPO/PO No. of Applications pending

1	Ahmedabad	1194
2	Bangalore	8637
3	Bareilly	1505
4	Bhopal	1927
5	Bhubaneswar	1450
6	Chandigarh	14895
7	Chennai	8495
8	Cochin	3265
9	Delhi	7444
10	Ghaziabad	
11	Guwahati	1270
12	Hyderabad	90
13	Jaipur	14255
14	Jalandhar	2628
15	Jammu	Nil
16	Kolkata	376
17	Kozhikode	7931
18	Lucknow	7834
19	Mumbai	776
20	Nagpur	964
21	Panaji	281
22	Patna	873
23	Pune	340
24	Ranchi	181
25	Srinagar	-
26	Surat	2669
27	Thane	658
28	Trichy	14861
29	Trivandrum	1336
30	Visakhapatnam	3215
	TOTAL	109350